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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte: EARL ROTMAN,
WILLAIM S. SCHREIER, and JEFFREY BERSON

Application No. 10/709,329
Technology Center 3600

Mailed: February 2, 2009

Before KAREN SWEENEY, *Paralegal Specialist*.
SWEENEY, *Paralegal Specialist*.

ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was electronically received by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on December 23, 2008. A review of the application revealed that it is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the Examiner to address the following matters requiring attention prior to docketing.

APPEAL BRIEF, SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Appellants filed an Appeal Brief dated September 8, 2006. The Appeal Brief is not in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c) effective September 13, 2004.

According to 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c) (v), an Appeal Brief must include the following:

(v) *Summary Of Claimed Subject Matter*. A concise explanation of the subject matter defined in each of the independent claims involved in the appeal, which must refer to the specification by page and line number, and to the drawing, if any, by reference characters. While reference to page and line number of the specification requires somewhat more detail than simply summarizing the invention, it is considered important to enable the Board to more quickly determine where the claimed subject matter is described in the application. For each independent claim involved in the appeal and for each dependent claim argued separately under the provisions of 37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(vii), every means plus function and step plus function as permitted by 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph, must be identified and the structure, material, or acts described in the specification as corresponding to each claimed function must be set forth with reference to the specification by page and line number, and to the drawing, if any, by reference characters.

The “Summary of claimed subject matter” appearing on pages 3-5 of the Appeal Brief filed September 8, 2006 is deficient because it does not separately map independent claim 32 to the Specification. Correction is required.

MPEP § 1205.03 states in part:

(B) When the Office holds the brief to be defective solely due to appellant’s failure to provide a summary of the claimed subject matter as required by 37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(v), an entire new brief need not, and should not, be filed. Rather, a paper providing a summary of the claimed subject matter as required by 37 CFR

41.37(c)(1)(v) will suffice. Failure to timely respond to the Office's requirement will result in dismissal of the appeal. See MPEP § 1215.04 and § 711.02(b).

EXAMINER'S CONSIDERATION OF REPLY BRIEF

A Reply Brief was filed in this application on May 9, 2007. There is no evidence on the record indicating that the Examiner has considered the Reply Brief in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 41.43(a)(1) and MPEP § 1208, part II.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that the application is returned to the Examiner to:

- 1) hold the Appeal Brief filed September 8, 2006 defective, as required by 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(d);
- 2) notify the Appellants to submit a "paper" which corrects the Appeal Brief's Summary of Claimed Subject Matter under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(v);
- 3) acknowledge and consider any "paper" submitted by Appellants to correct the Appeal Brief;
- 4) consider the Reply Brief filed May 9, 2007 as indicated above;
- 5) for such further action as may be appropriate.

If there are any questions pertaining to this Order, please contact the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences at 571-272-9797.

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